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25. (New) The startup/driving authorization system according to claim 24, wherein an idle speed of the vehicle is monitored and included in the shut down of the vehicle.

26. (New) The startup/driving authorization system according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the preliminary startup procedures, including a transponder identification, is repeatable by depressing at least one of a brake pedal and a clutch of the vehicle if the at least one of the preliminary startup procedures is one of not performed and unsuccessful.

27. (New) The startup/driving authorization system according to claim 15, wherein an electrical system of the vehicle remains at least partially active if at least one of the preliminary startup procedures is one of not performed and unsuccessful, the startup/driving authorization system being configured to shut down the electrical system, except for elements of a safety system of the vehicle, when the transponder is removed from within a communication range of the startup/driving authorization system.

28. (New) The startup/driving authorization system according to claim 15, further comprising:

a notification system for notifying a driver of a cause of any error if at least one precondition to a vehicle start approval is not satisfied.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1 - 19 and substitute claims 1 - 14 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/00786. This Preliminary Amendment adds new claims 15 - 28. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add any new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the specification conform the same to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not introduce any new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/00786 includes an International Search Report, dated October 11, 1999, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/00786 also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report, dated June 29, 2000, a copy of which is included, including a translation.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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